

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 149

Introduced by Wightman, 36.

PURPOSE: (1) The Legislature finds that:

(a) In 2007-08, the State of Nebraska provided 39.99% of the total funding for K-12 education;

(b) Under the 2007-08 state aid formula, the state would have distributed over \$839 million in state aid to school districts, which would have been a \$295 million increase over the previous year;

(c) State aid for K-12 education has increased substantially over the past few years;

(d) Such increases are not sustainable when compared to the average growth in the state's revenue;

(e) The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided increased federal funds of approximately \$150 million in one-time funding for K-12 education. This funding must be replaced to sustain aid for K-12 education;

(f) The Legislature needs accurate and complete information to evaluate the performance and cost of its K-12 educational system; and

(g) The Legislature should make information available to taxpayers so that they can understand and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of their local school district.

(2) An interim study should be conducted for the following purposes:

(a) To examine how school finance data is reported to the public and how it could be made more user-friendly, comparable, and understandable; and

(b) To examine what type of information would assist the Legislature and the public in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of state aid for K-12 education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Education Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its study make a report of its findings, together with its recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.